

AUG 4 1976

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USERDA
W. W. BURR, JR., BER
GERMANTOWN, MARYLAND

151 Burr

USERDA, DIRECTOR, PASO, HONOLULU, HAWAII
ATTN: ROGER RAY

DRAFT STATEMENT DISCUSSED WITH YOU PREVIOUSLY FOLLOWS:
EVERYONE IN THE WORLD EXPOSED TO FALLOUT FROM NUCLEAR WEAPONS
TESTS CARRIES A MINUTE AMOUNT OF PLUTONIUM IN THEIR BODY,
SOME OF WHICH IS EXCRETED IN URINE. PARA. AS A PART OF
ERDA'S CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITY TO EVALUATE THE RADIOLOGICAL
STATUS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE MARSHALL
ISLANDS, VERY PRELIMINARY DATA FROM RADIOCHEMICAL ANALYSES
OF POOLED URINE IN SAMPLES FROM A SMALL NUMBER OF PEOPLE HAVE
INDICATED THAT THE CONCENTRATION OF PLUTONIUM-239, 240 IN
THE URINE OF PERSONS RESIDING ON THE BIKINI AND RONGELAP
ATOLLS APPEARS TO BE SOMEWHAT HIGHER THAN THAT IN THE URINE
OF SELECTED RESIDENTS OF NEW YORK CITY. RADIOANALYSES OF
THESE SAMPLES FOR OTHER RADIONUCLIDES IS IN PROGRESS. PARA.

W. W. Burr, Jr.:jkg
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THE URINE CONCENTRATIONS OF PLUTONIUM IN BOTH POPULATIONS ARE WELL BELOW LEVELS DETECTED BY USUAL LOW-LEVEL COUNTING PROCEDURES AND WELL BELOW LEVELS FOR WHICH WE HAVE EXPERIENCE IN ESTIMATING THE AMOUNT OF PLUTONIUM IN THE BODY. BECAUSE OF THIS AND IN VIEW OF OTHER FACTORS SUCH AS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT LIVING AND PHYSIOLOGICAL PATTERNS OF THE TWO POPULATIONS, THE POSSIBLE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS FINDING IS VERY UNCERTAIN. IN ADDITION, THE METHOD OF SAMPLING IS SUCH THAT VERY SMALL LEVELS OF ENVIRONMENTAL PLUTONIUM MIGHT HAVE CONTAMINATED THE SAMPLES. PARA. BASED UPON THE DATA PRESENTLY AVAILABLE, THERE DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE ANY IMMEDIATE NEED FOR CONCERN: STUDIES ARE CONTINUING TO CLARIFY THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THESE MEASUREMENTS.

REF:BER

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